

## **Committee of the Whole**

February 11, 2014

The Committee of the Whole met Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Quorum Court Room, County Administration Building, Third Floor, 215 East Central, Bentonville, Arkansas.

11 JPs Present: McKenzie, J. Harrison, Allen, K. Harrison, Adams, Jones,  
Sandlin, Curry, Carr, Meyers, Moore  
4 Absent: \*Hernandez, \*Chiocco, Anglin, Moehring

Others Present: Assessor Glenn “Bear” Chaney, County Attorney George Spence, Administrator of Public Safety Marshal Watson, Administrator of General Services John Sudduth, Comptroller Sarah Daniels, Human Resources Manager Barbara Ludwig

Media: Tom Sissom - Daily Record

Chair Kurt Moore called the meeting to order.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mike Clifford of Bentonville thanked the court members for all of their hard work toward solving the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) situation.

Jana Della Rosa of Rogers introduced herself and announced that she is running for State Representative in District 90.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

JP Allen reported that the Finance Committee had met, and that all items were forwarded to the Committee of the Whole agenda. He reported that removal of the snow and ice caused by the recent storms has cost over \$200,000.

JP Sandlin stated that the Personnel Committee had met and that item “T” has been forwarded from the Finance Committee to the Committee of the Whole agenda.

JP J. Harrison made motion to suspend the rules and read all ordinances and resolutions by title only, seconded by JP Carr.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

\*JP Chiocco entered the meeting.

**A. Resolution Request: Confirming the County Judge's Appointment of Craig William "Bill" Tanner to the Benton County Historical Preservation Commission**  
JP Carr made motion to approve and forward the proposed resolution to the February 27, 2014 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP J Harrison.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

**B. Resolution Request: Confirming County Judge's Re-appointment of James Cole to the Planning Board, Position #2**

JP Allen made motion to approve and forward the proposed resolution to the February 27, 2014 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Sandlin.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hand vote.

**C. Resolution Request: Setting the Pay for the Elected County Official - Coroner's Position**

JP Jones stated that this proposed resolution states that it is the intent of the Quorum Court to increase the pay for the Coroner's position from \$71,237 to \$81,901 through the budget process, beginning January 1, 2015. He stated that this increase would bring the Coroner's position to the same level as the other Elected Officials.

JP Jones made motion to approve and forward the proposed resolution to the February 27, 2014 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Chiocco.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

\*JP Hernandez entered the meeting.

**D. Appropriation Ordinance Request: Non-Departmental Maintenance, Dept. 0108, Fund 1000**

JP Jones made motion to approve and forward the proposed appropriation ordinance to the February 27, 2014 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Carr.

JP Jones stated that this proposed appropriation ordinance is to replace the County Administration Building Fire Alarm System, but that for many reasons, he would be voting no. He stated that no one was notified before the money was spent, and even though it is under \$20,000, they did not take bids on it. He said that there are multiple companies that do this sort of work, and that he does not think that is the way to do business.

Lengthy discussion was held on the installation of the new fire alarm system at the County Administration Building.

Motion passed by show of hands vote.

**E. Appropriation Ordinance Request: Non-Departmental Maintenance, Dept. 0108, Fund 1000 and Fund 4000**

JP Jones stated that this proposed appropriation ordinance is for moving expenses, new chairs, and renovation costs of the Benton County Offices of Rogers (BCOR) Building.

JP Jones made motion to approve and forward the proposed appropriation ordinance to the February 27, 2014 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Chiocco.

JP Allen questioned why the proposed appropriation contained both the cost of the moving expenditures and renovations to the Benton County Offices of Rogers (BCOR) Building.

Comptroller Sarah Daniels stated that was her decision to combine the two requests in an effort to cut down publishing costs.

Lengthy discussion was held on the additional renovation costs to the Benton County Offices of Rogers (BCOR) Building.

Administrator of General Services John Sudduth stated that they had found that the existing air conditioner systems in the building did not work, and that they had to bring the BCOR Building up to the City of Rogers Building Codes.

JP McKenzie stated that he would not support the appropriation ordinance request.

Further lengthy discussion was held on the additional renovation costs to the BCOR Building.

JP Allen stated that he would vote for this, but that this it is really upsetting to him, and he would not vote for this kind of budget overrun again the rest of this rest year, adding that he is tired of this.

JP Jones withdrew his motion and second approved.

JP Jones made motion to split the proposed appropriation ordinance and approve Article 2 for \$23,500 for the moving expenses and new chairs for the BCOR Building and forward to the February 27, Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP J. Harrison.

Motion passed by show of hands vote.

JP Jones made motion to approve Article 3 of the proposed appropriation ordinance for \$138,900 and forward to the February 27, 2014 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Sandlin.

Motion passed by show of hands vote.

**F. Appropriation Ordinance Request: Prosecuting Attorney, Dept. 0416, Fund 1000 and Jail Operations/Maintenance, Dept. 0418, Fund 3017**

JP Jones stated that this is a 2013 budget clean-up ordinance and made motion to approve and forward the proposed appropriation ordinance to the February 27, 2014 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Adams.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

**G. Appropriation Ordinance Request: Circuit Court Div. VI, Dept. 0405, Fund 1000**

JP J. Harrison made motion to approve and forward the proposed appropriation ordinance to the February 27, 2014 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Jones.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

**H. Appropriation Ordinance Request: Transfer of Funds between Various Categories and Line Items, Dept. 000, Various Funds**

JP Jones stated that this is a clean-up ordinance to correct three 2014 revenue codes and made motion to approve and forward the proposed appropriation ordinance to the February 27, 2014 Quorum Court Agenda, seconded by JP Carr.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

**I. Appropriation Ordinance Request: Reorganization in Various Departments Amending Schedule 4 – Personnel and Compensation Authorization, due to the Reorganization in Various Departments and Funds**

JP Jones made motion to approve and forward the proposed appropriation ordinance to the February 27, 2014 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Adams

JP Allen stated that Article 2 has been added to the proposed appropriation ordinance since it was approved and forwarded from the Finance Committee. He stated that state law requires that Justices of the Peace be paid on a per diem basis, not the flat monthly \$350 rate that they now receive.

Further discussion was held on changes to how the Quorum Court is paid, and the committee recommended that the rate of pay be changed to \$175 for Quorum Court meetings and \$175 for Committee of the Whole meetings to reflect the per diem requirement.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

JP Carr announced that the early voting results for the Benton County EMS Special Election was 357 for, and 578 against.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.